

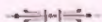
West Australian Football League.



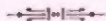
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

SEASON 1907.



**Presented and Adopted at the Annual Meeting held
at Perth, March 25, 1908.**



PORTER & SALMON, PRINTERS, FREMANTLE.

West Australian Football
League



ANNUAL REPORT

STRATHGORD 1907

Prepared and printed by the Annual Report of the
West Australian Football League

WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

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SEASON 1907.
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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—

Though the 1907 season cannot claim to be ranked as a record year in every department of your administration, it has been characterised by progressive achievements, the memory of which makes the framing and submission of this report a pleasurable duty.

PREMIERSHIP CONTESTS.

What was originally termed the "Victorian Premiership System"—but since its adoption by all the important executives may be called Australian—was continued, and it may be said met with less hostile criticism than in previous years. Though the standard of play and equality of teams were of as high an order as in the past in what may be called first-class matches, it has to be admitted that the wide discrepancy in the strength and skill of the weaker combinations resulted in an inordinately large number of uninteresting contests. The season was remarkable for the unprecedented number of wet playing days experienced, the frequency of which is without precedent in the history of more recent years. The season concluded by the premiership honors being awarded to the Perth Club, with East Fremantle holding the position of runners-up. It was unfortunate that the final disposition of first honors was the subject of definite settlement by the judicial board of the League, yet the confused conclusion of the last contest left no other course open.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

It is regrettable to record that for the first time for a number of years the test of strength for the State Championship between the Coastal and Goldfields premier teams was interrupted, firstly by the delay in finally determining the positions of our clubs, and, secondly, by the uninvited visit to the metropolis of the Goldfields premier team, which arrived despite the fact that, following the alternate rule, the League premiership team should have journeyed to Kalgoorlie.

‘GROUNDS DIFFICULTY.

The question of playing grounds and terms connected therewith, which for many years had been a source of annoyance to this body, may be said to have been brought to a climax last season, when a combination representative of grounds owners sought to enforce what were regarded as unreasonable terms. As the combine seemed to originate from the controllers of the Perth Association Ground, it was thought advisable to disqualify that enclosure for the whole season. Subsequently the North Fremantle Council withdrew from the combine, and finally a satisfactory understanding was arrived at with the Fremantle Council, without the loss of dignity to the League. As the Midland Junction Council and the Agricultural Society had from the outset remained aloof from the combination, the settlement left the required number of grounds available. Though the transfer of all matches from the City resulted in some slight inconvenience, the sacrifice as can be seen even at this stage will be amply repaid, and the efforts by which the dissolution of the combine in its infancy was brought about should prove of lasting service to future executives. The action of the City Clubs in unanimously supporting the League in its decision to abandon what may be regarded as their home ground is to be commended, while a record should be made of the voluntary offer of the Subiaco Club to retire for one season if it were found necessary to conduct the fixtures on three grounds, as was at one stage considered probable.

NEW GROUNDS.

An event of the season was the admission of the State Show Ground as a senior playing arena, and it may be said that, despite the very unfavorable weather conditions which almost invariably prevailed when important fixtures eventuated there, the experiment was fully successful. The nett amount received by the League from this enclosure was

only £28 less than the receipts from the Fremantle Oval, while it was equal to those of the Association Ground in 1906 and £100 in advance of the 1905 returns from the same ground. That the Show Ground, with good matches and fair weather, will draw large crowds was amply proved by the fact that the largest football attendance ever assembled in this State was recorded there in connection with the final contest. It is to be regretted that the want of an up-to-date playing ground in the City is still severely felt. In fact, in this respect it may be said that Perth is the most backward capital in the Commonwealth. Since 1902 your League alone has disbursed in round figures £3,500 to grounds owners. One enclosure the Fremantle Oval—has for the past two years been paid an amount of £727, or an average of £7 per week summer and winter. In view of these figures, it seems difficult to understand why the citizens of Perth, by referendum, refused to allow their Council to provide means of securing a share of this revenue and at the same time to beautify their city and remedy the matter in which it lags behind its Eastern sisters. The efforts of Cr. Mills, in the direction of securing a city-owned ground, are deserving of the thanks of all votaries of sport. It is pleasing to note the splendid improvements that are being made or proposed by the Subiaco Council in connection with Mueller Park; it seems that the efforts of this suburban municipality will, within a short time, secure for it the excellent means of revenue which undoubtedly awaits such enterprise.

FINANCES.

Though there has been a slight diminution in the gate receipts as compared with the last two previous years, the finances of your League, as shown by the accompanying statement, are in a highly satisfactory state. Owing to the gate receipts in the lesser matches being small, the four last clubs on the list received less financial benefit than in previous years, though the first four teams divided a sum slightly in excess of the 1906 season. It may surprise delegates to know that no less than 27 matches between the weak and strong clubs failed to pay umpires' fees, the average nett receipts to the League being 37/7, while the umpires' fees alone totalled 73/- per match, or a total loss of £47, which in itself is a proof of the generous sportsmanship which prompts the stronger clubs to remain willing to allow this system of assisting the less fortunate combinations.

RETIREMENT OF TREASURER.

Owing to protracted illness, Mr. E. Udy, who had held the office of treasurer continuously for the past four years, tendered his resignation. In recognition of his services, the honor of life honorary membership was conferred.

COUNTRY AND MINOR ASSOCIATIONS.

The following Associations were registered with this body during the year: -Albany, Bunbury, Collie, Eastern District, Geraldton, Katanning, Mercantile, Murchison and Nelson. The services of your League were again largely availed of by the subordinate executives, and all reports seem to indicate sound progress.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATIONS.

In this department of the game record advancement has been made. All branches carried on competitions with increased numbers of clubs, and the management by the respective officials was much more satisfactory than in previous seasons. Following on the precedent established in 1906, a conference was held between the representatives of your League and the various grades, with the result that most of the encouragement asked for was granted, though not on such a scale as would be desirable under more flourishing financial circumstances.

COLLEGE ASSOCIATION.

The three leading Colleges of the State again played the Australian game only, and an interesting series of matches resulted in the Christian Brothers' College securing the championship pennant presented by your League.

THE EX-SCHOLARS' MOVEMENT.

In connection with the ex-Scholars' movement, begun in 1906, a new grade, under the name of the Commonwealth League, was inaugurated, and has proved highly successful. The ex-Scholars' clubs, including those in the new League, numbered 14 as against 8 in the previous year. With the new body a further link between the schools and higher grades has been created, and in the 1909 season should be followed by a further advanced division, until finally there will exist regular series of gradations from the schools to the senior clubs, thus effecting the establishment of a set of organisations under which the game will be properly

governed. Under this head special reference should be made to the work of Mr. E. D. Longson as secretary of the Commonwealth League, and Messrs. A. Coyne and W. A. Brown, who had charge of the secretarial work of Perth and Fremantle ex-Scholars' divisions respectively.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Another successful year in schools circles has to be recorded, for every State school within the metropolitan area nominated a team under Australian rules, and in only three institutions combinations under the rules of oversea codes existed. Much of last year's success was due to the efforts of Messrs. John Tucker, J. L. Williamson, G. Oliver, F. I. Bray and L. Boas.

YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE.

The number of teams competing under this organisation numbered 26, as against 16 in 1905. A combined party of 41 lads made a tour of the Eastern Districts, where they were accommodated and liberally entertained at Northam and Newcastle, mainly through the efforts of Mr. A. W. Byfield, of the former centre. Parties also visited Mundijong under the care of Mr. C. Jeffrey. All of these ventures were carried out without expense to this body. During the August vacation 25 goldfields and 30 Northam schoolboys were the guests of the League and the Young Australia Football League during a visit to the metropolis; the former remaining for a week, during which time the arrangements were very capably carried out by Messrs. S. H. Cookson and C. Jeffrey. The premierships medals, presented by your League, for the Perth division were won by the Perth Boys' No. 1 team, while those for the Fremantle division were secured by the Christian Bros.' The former also annexed the championship, which carried with it the Alcock trophy. The runners-up trophy of the Perth division, a handsome cup presented by Mr. J. C. Taylor, fell to the Midland Junction State School, while the "B" grade medals were obtained by the Maylands Schools. The administration of this department fell chiefly to Messrs. F. I. Bray and E. Udy, who at different periods shared the secretarial work of the Perth division, and Mr. J. C. Lunt, who acted in a similar capacity in the Fremantle division.

SCHOOLBOYS' INTERSTATE TOUR.

A unique event of the season was the successful educational and football tour of the Eastern States by 30 schoolboys selected by the Young Australia Football League, which extended over seven weeks and for duration, distance covered and numerical strength, constitutes an Australian, if not a world's record, for an undertaking of its kind. The arrangements were carried out by a committee formed by the Young Australia Football League under the auspices of your League, with Mr. John Tucker, as President. The chief honor of the success of the organisation work in this State must be credited to Mr. T. W. Cecil, a life honorary member of your League, whose efforts removed much of the financial responsibilities incurred. In order to remove a misunderstanding that has gained currency, it may be necessary to state that the scheme was carried out without calling upon this League for anything above the petty expenses of the Committee. During the tour the travellers were very generously entertained and accommodated by the Victorian and New South Wales Football Leagues and other bodies in the cities and towns visited. The football section of the tour resulted as follows:—Matches played, 10; won, 7; lost, 3. Towards the close of the season, the Committee, with the concurrence of your League, issued an invitation to send 30 New South Wales lads on a reciprocal visit to this State.

UMPIRES.

Your League again found the selection of suitable umpires a difficult task, but in this the experience showed that the game was much better served than in previous years, and indications point to the difficulty being a disappearing consideration. Your Committee was fortunate in re-engaging Mr. H. Crapp for the season, and, needless to say, he retained that high reputation which has made him the best known umpire in the Commonwealth. For the information of the delegates, the following figures are inserted to show the large increase in umpires' fees paid during the last six years:—1902, £104; 1903, £132; 1904, £133; 1905, £189; 1906, £312; 1907, £307 18s. This unusual increase since 1905 is attributed to the introduction of boundary umpires and the additions to the number of teams.

INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE VISIT.

During the season your League was pleased to be able to suspend its fixtures during the visit of a Canadian lacrosse team to this State, for which the thanks of the lacrosse executive were received.

APPEAL BOARD.

The re-election of Messrs. R. A. Sholl, F. Gill and J. R. Bolt to constitute the Appeal Board, met with general approval, and the thanks of the League are due to those gentlemen for their painstaking and conscientious attention to the duties required.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

A further increase in routine and extra business of the League has to be recorded again. Over 30 League and Committee meetings were held, while outward letters alone totalled over 600 official pages. As the functions and influence of the League advance, a continued increase in its business and resultant additional work for the executive may be expected. As shewing the growth of your League during the past five years, the receipts for 1902 and the average for the last three seasons are interesting. In the former the sum was £932 rs. 8d., while in the latter the average was £1489 14s. 8d.

INTERSTATE EXCHANGES.

During the season your president, Mr. R. G. O'Neill, while on a visit to the Eastern States was most cordially received by the officials of the game in Melbourne and Sydney. During his absence, Mr. F. Gray capably performed the duties of acting-president. The passing of Mr. L. A. Adamson, chairman of the Victorian Metropolitan League, *en route* from Europe, afforded an opportunity for your executive officials to extend to that gentleman greetings from this League and a welcome back to Australia.

JUBILEE REMISSIONS OF DISQUALIFICATIONS.

An interesting decision of your League was the one which provides that the jubilee of Australian football should be marked by declaring a remission of disqualifications on all players under terms of suspension inflicted by your League prior to 1907.

FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GAME.

That the relationship existing between your League and the West Australian Football Association has not been entirely satisfactory will be readily admitted. I should suggest in this report that the incoming League should appoint a sub-committee to draw up a plan by which the present system may be improved.

AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.

The most important event during the coming season will be the contests in Melbourne to determine the championship of all Australasia. The financing and selection of a team, in conjunction with the Goldfields League, will involve a large amount of work and require whole-hearted co-operation to secure a worthy combination to represent Western Australia.

THANKS.

In conclusion, I desire to thank your president (Mr. R. G. O'Neill) and the delegates generally for the generous assistance received at their hands throughout the season. I also wish to specially thank Mr. F. I. Bray, who has been most consistent in his readiness to assist wherever the interests of the game required it. To Mr. E. Udy, who acted as treasurer for the greater part of the season and also as acting-secretary during my absence in the Eastern States, I am also deeply indebted, while Mr. J. Webb, who succeeded the last-named gentleman as treasurer, has been most practical in his work in connection with that office.

J J. SIMONS,

SECRETARY.

Adopted.

R. G. O'NEILL,

PRESIDENT.

Officers and Committees.

At the Annual Meeting of the League the following Officers and Committees were elected :—

President :

MR. R. G. O'NEILL.

Vice-Presidents :

MESSRS. F. GRAY AND H. W. MILLS.

Treasurer :

MR. J. WEBB.

Auditors :

MESSRS. E. G. READ AND F. T. KNOX.

Appeal Board :

MESSRS. R. A. SHOLL, J. R. BOLT, F. GILL.

Finance Committee :

MESSRS. S. H. COOKSON, R. H. MCLEOD, P. G. MCMAHON.

Permit and Umpire Committee :

MESSRS. S. H. COOKSON, F. GRAY, A. JAMIESON, A. MCCALLUM, H. W. MILLS, A. A. MOFFAT, A. SIMMS, J. WEBB.

Junior and Schools Committee :

MESSRS. T. CECIL, T. M. GUTHRIE, J. LINGSON, A. A. MOFFAT, A. SIMMS, also the PRESIDENT, TREASURER, AND SECRETARY.

Secretary :

MR. J. J. SIMONS, FREMANTLE (sufficient address).

THE GOVERNING BODY OF FOOTBALL IN WEST AUSTRALIA.

Officers, Clubs, etc., since 1891.

Year.	President.	Chairman.	Secretary.	Treasurer	Clubs.
1891	H. R. Dixon		W. H. James		
1892	E. Darlot	W. H. James	C. Cutbush		Rovers, West Perth, East Perth, Fremantle (late Unions. 13
1893		W. H. James	G. E. Cranstone, to Aug. 12 C. Cutbush		
1894		E. C. Prendergast	G. E. Cranstone		
1895	A. J. Diamond	W. H. James	Stanley Evans	Secretary	Rovers, West Perth, Imperials, Fremantle.
1896	T. O'Beirne	E. C. Prendergast	E. L. Wilson	Secretary	Rovers, West Perth, Imperials, Fremantle.

The Governing Body of Football in West Australia (continued).

Year.	President.	Chairman.	Secretary.	Treasurer	Clubs.
1897	H. Doyle	E. C. Prendergast	H. J. Scott	Secretary	
1898	H. Doyle	E. C. Prendergast	E. L. Wilson	S. Hussey	Rovers, West Perth, Fremantle, East Fremantle.
1899	R. H. Barrett	E. C. Prendergast	E. L. Wilson	Secretary	
1900	R. H. Barrett	C. H. Paulin	R. R. Thomas, to May 11 J. F. Dwyer	Secretary	West Perth, Perth, East Fremantle, Sth. Fremantle.
1901	R. H. Barrett	C. H. Paulin	J. F. Dwyer	Secretary	West Perth, Perth, East Fremantle, Sth. Fremantle, Nth. Fremantle, Subiaco.
1902	C. H. Pierce	W. Roche	J. F. Dwyer	Secretary	Do.
	PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN.				
1903	W. Roche		J. F. Dwyer, to Oct. 13 E. Udy, end term	E. Udy	Do.

The Governing Body of Football in West Australia (continued).

Year.	President and Chairman.	Secretary.	Treasurer	Clubs.
1904	W. Roche, to Aug. 30 R. A. Sholl, to end of term	E. Udy, to April 10 J. F. Dwyer	E. Udy	West Perth, Perth, East Fremantle, Sth. Fremantle, Nth. Fremantle, Subiaco.
1905	R. A. Sholl, to July 19 R. G. O'Neill	J. F. Dwyer, to May 2, E. Udy, to May 10, J. J. Simons.	E. Udy	West Perth, Perth, East Fremantle, Sth. Fremantle, Nth. Fremantle, Subiaco, Midland Junction.
1906	R. G. O'Neill	J. J. Simons	E. Udy	East Fremantle, West Perth, Perth, North Fremantle, South Fremantle, Subiaco, Midland Junction, East Perth.
1907	R. G. O'Neill	J. J. Simons	E. Udy, to Aug. 22 J. Webb	Do.
1908	R. G. O'Neill	J. J. Simons	J. Webb	Do.

